

A collage of historical and navigational items. In the top left, a checkered board with several small, round, light-colored buttons. Below it, a blue ribbon with a silver star and a circular medallion. To the right, a red ribbon with a silver star and a circular medallion. In the center, a pair of thin-framed glasses. In the bottom left, a circular compass with a white face and black markings.

Acknowledging the Past to Achieve a Shared Vision for the Future

Richard Wells & Blossom Johnston





Objectives

1. Acknowledge past issues that have kept people and organizations apart
2. Understand how to focus on what community members can do instead of what they can't do
3. Identify tools and resources to help understand what is happening in each community
4. Identify one thing each of us can do to move beyond past barriers toward a shared sense of community for the future



Community Movement Quiz

True or False

1. Local communities are organizing to solve complex local problems.
2. Funders should invest heavily in a single type of community initiative to most effectively impact change.



Community Movement Quiz

True or False

1. Local communities are organizing to solve complex local problems.

TRUE

Most cities and towns in Idaho now have some form of mobilization to address problems/challenges. You must have “all hands on deck” to solve complex systemic (system-wide) problems.



Community Movement Quiz

True or False

2. Funders should invest heavily in a single type of community initiative to most effectively impact change.

FALSE

You have to have holistic change to create system change.



Communities Movement

“Healthy, Sustainable, Livable, Safe, Walkable, Whole, Successful, Resilient, even Lovable precede the word Community in the name of hundreds of multisectoral coalitions across America.”

Tyler Norris, President of Community Initiatives, published in the American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol. 29, No. 2, 2001.

www.comunityinitiatives.com




Some Community Movements

- ◆ **Healthy Communities Initiatives (Health focus)**
- ◆ **Sustainable Communities (Environmental focus)**
- ◆ **Safe Communities (Safety focus)**
- ◆ **Smart Growth (Economic Focus)**
- ◆ **Communities That Care (Prevention Focus-Risk and Protective Factors)**
- ◆ **America's Promise (Youth Development focus)**
- ◆ **Search Institute Healthy Community Healthy Youth (40 Developmental Asset Focus)**
- ◆ **The National Civic League (Civic Democracy)**



Acknowledge Past Barriers

1. Fear or a lack of trust
2. Past unresolved conflict, hurt, offenses
3. Lack of a shared community vision
4. Perceived (or real) threat to resources/funds
5. Perceived (or real) duplication of services
6. Categorical funding streams/grant requirements
7. Power struggles & unwillingness to change
8. Protecting a job
9. Pride & arrogance



Turf wars exist in Idaho—
they just aren't gang-
related
Meri Bybee, Idaho Falls



Common Elements

1. Life, liberty & the pursuit of happiness
2. The realization that your voice counts
3. Requires leadership, commitment, goals, participation
4. A purpose for existence and tangible results
5. Concerned with “common/public good”
6. Provides opportunities to develop meaningful relationships, leadership skills & talents



Where Do We Fit?

Key Question: Do you know what other community movements are active in your service area and how they intersect with your organization?

Integrating the Movements

COMPLEX PROBLEMS	MAJOR ISSUES	POTENTIAL INTERSECTION
Child Obesity (America's Promise, CTC, HC/HY, Safe Communities)	Lack of organized activities/exercise	Neighborhood Development
Economic Growth (Smart Growth, National Civic League)	"Brain Drain"	Neighborhood Development
Sprawl (Sustainable Communities)	Lack of planning/zoning	Neighborhood Development



A Shared Vision Includes

- ◆ Building relationships of mutual trust and respect
- ◆ Identifying local resources (e.g. Community Mapping)
- ◆ Identifying a diverse group of people interested in collaborating around a shared vision
- ◆ Seeking help from facilitators who can lead the community through the process of mobilization
- ◆ <http://ctb.lsi.ukans.edu/tools/CWS/trouble/planning/paagre.html>



Tools to Identify What is Going on in the Community

- ◆ Community
- ◆ People
- ◆ Place
- ◆ Event



Putting It All Together

- ◆ Begin with a shared community vision
- ◆ Community movements are interconnected
- ◆ Start with what you have—build on your strengths including your local assets and resources
- ◆ Make appointments to meet with leaders of other community movements & organizations
- ◆ Be an active participant

You be the change you want to see happen...Ghandi

To help create a common vision in my community

I will....

- ◆ **Call...**
- ◆ **Contact...**
- ◆ **Learn about....**
- ◆ Special thanks to Richard Wells, (Senior Director America's Promise) for taking the lead in developing this presentation

